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IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 4 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the present letter and the attached text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 4 March 1991 from the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, the Iraqi régime has spilled more than 10 million barrels of crude oil into the waters of the Gulf, thus creating an environmental disaster that is considered the worst of its kind in history, and has waged an environmental war without regard for its neighbouring countries or for the lives of animals and plants in the region.

I do not need to mention to you that this oil pollution caused by the Iraqi régime is premeditated and intentional and is considered an irresponsible act of aggression against humans and natural resources with all the related living organisms and unique natural heritage; this, in addition to the great harm that befell many civilians who live on the coast of the Gulf, many of whom make their living from fishing or from the other resources of the sea.

This damage was reflected in particular in many human activities that are related to the waters of the Gulf, such as fisheries, desalination and other human activities, whose effect could extend to the next generation, as the Gulf is a shallow body of water and the rate of water renewal with the Indian Ocean is extremely slow because of the natural impediment presented by the Strait of Hormuz.

I would like to mention to you on this occasion some of the important natural resources that were actually exposed to danger as a result of the pollution that resulted from this environmental catastrophe and was caused by the Iraqi régime:

- Coral reefs;
- Sandy beaches;
- Al-shora plant (manjaroof);
- Seaweed;
- Lagoons;
- Tortoises and sea turtles;
- Sea and shore birds;
- The coastal environment;
- Fish and non-vertebrates.

Because the danger of crude oil leakage into the waters of the Gulf is continuing and its destructive effects have not become fully apparent, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue to monitor the environmental developments that will undoubtedly occur and keep you informed in this regard.

At the same time, I would like to communicate the Government of Saudi Arabia's willingness to receive technical assistance to face the expected dangers, whether from the Member States of the United Nations or from concerned specialized agencies.

May I request you kindly to distribute the present message as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Saud AL-FAISAL
Foreign Minister of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia